WO 2005/074718 PCT/EP2005/050414

## CLAIMS

1. Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition containing at least one short-chain fatty acid or salt, ester and/or amide thereof, in combination with a complex sugar and/or dietary fibre and with one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

- 2. Composition according to Claim 1 in which the short-chain fatty acid is a linear or branched  $C_1-C_5$  monocarboxylic organic acid.
- 3. Composition according to Claim 1 in which the short-chain fatty acid is selected from: acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, and isovaleric acid, preferably butyric acid.
- 4. Composition according to Claim 1 in which the short-chain fatty acid is butyric acid.
- 5. Composition according to Claim 1 in which the complex sugar or dietary fibre is selected from: inulin, pectin, dextrin, maltodextrin, or derivatives thereof.
- 6. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims in which a quantity of from 5 to 50% by weight of the short-chain fatty acid is included.
- 7. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims in which a quantity of from 10 to 30% by weight of the short-chain fatty acid is included.
- 8. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims in which a quantity of from 5 to 50% by weight of the soluble dietary fibre is included.
- 9. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims in which a quantity of from 10 to 30% by weight of the soluble dietary fibre is included.
- 10. Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition according to any one of the preceding claims in tablet, capsule, granule and/or micro-granule form.

WO 2005/074718 PCT/EP2005/050414

- 11. Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is an intestinal controlled-release composition.
- 12. Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition according to any one of the preceding claims, containing a gastro-resistant coating.
- 13. Use of a short-chain fatty acid in combination with a soluble dietary fibre for the preparation of a pharmaceutical or dietary composition for the treatment of intestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, and pathological conditions of the intestinal mucous membrane and for the preventive or limiting treatment of intestinal neoplasia.
- 14. Use according to Claim 13 in which the short-chain fatty acid is a linear or branched  $C_1-C_5$  monocarboxylic organic acid.
- 15. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in which the short-chain fatty acid is selected from: acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, and isovaleric acid, preferably butyric acid.
- 16. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in which the short-chain fatty acid is butyric acid.
- 17. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in which the complex sugar or dietary fibre is selected from: inulin, pectin, dextrin, maltodextrin, or derivatives thereof.
- 18. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in which a quantity of from 5 to 50% by weight of the short-chain fatty acid is included.
- 19. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in which a quantity of from 10 to 30% by weight of the short-chain fatty acid is included.

WO 2005/074718 PCT/EP2005/050414

15

- 20. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in which a quantity of from 5 to 50% by weight of the soluble dietary fibre is included.
- 21. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in which a quantity of from 10 to 30% by weight of the soluble dietary fibre is included.
- 22. Use according to any one of the preceding claims in tablet, capsule, granule and/or micro-granule form.
- 23. Use according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized by intestinal controlled release.
- 24. Use according to any one of the preceding claims, including a gastro-resistant coating.